Child Labour in Hazardous Industries

33. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have so far taken to control child labour in the carpet industry in the country;

(b) the present number of child labour engaged in carpet and other hazardous industries (State-wise);

(c) the number of registered looms which are engaging child labour despite Government's instructions;

(d) the number of looms which have so far been blacklisted and deregistered for violating the law against child labour; and

(e) what are the details of instructions' guidelines issued by Government against the employment of child labour in carpet and other hazardous industries and handlooms and how far these have been implemented and violated by these organisations (State-wise)?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) To control child labour especially in the carpet industry Government has stepped up enforcement of the relevant Child Labour Laws in the carpet-belt in eastern Uttar Pradesh. State Government has informed that 9940 inspections have been made and 122 prosecutions have been filed in carpet belt during 1995. The Carpet Export Promotion Council has introduced a system of compulsory registration-cum-membership for export of handmade carpets. Besides this, there are two National Child Labour Projects under implementation-one each in UP (Mirzapur-Bhadohi) and Bihar (Garwah) covering 1850 children.

More children working in this industry are expected to be withdrawn and diverted to schooling in the years to come through a new scheme launched in 1995-96.

(b) The number of child labour industry-wise is not maintained. However, it is estimated that about 20 lakh children are working in hazardous occupations and State-wise figures in this regard are not maintained.

(c) and (d) According to information furnished by the Ministry of Textile, Office of the Development Commissioner for Handicrafts, the State Government of Uttar Pradesh has set up a State level committee and district level task forces under the Chairmanship of Collectors in the concerned districts of Uttar Pradesh for enforcement of the child labour laws. The State Government till May in 1995 has inspected 9940 establishments and filed 122 cases against loom-owners violating child labour laws. During these inspections the presence of 371 children was found.

It has further been reported by the Office of the Development Commissioner, Handicrafts that Carpet Export Promotion Council has so far de-registered 28 looms and initiated action against 40 loom-owners. 1042 loom owners have been blacklisted as child labour was found to be employed on their looms and de-registration proceedings are under progress against 40 exporter-manufacturers.

(e) The Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act, 1986 has been enacted to prohibit employment of child labour in 7 occupations and 18 processes including carpet weaving.

The State-wise enforcement figures for the year 1992-93 and 1993-94 are Annexed. *[See* Appendix 174 Annexure No. 1]

Cases Registered under Consumer Protection Act

34. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases registered under Consumer Protection Act during

the last three years, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether State Governments are not properly implementing the Consumer Protection Act;

(c) whether complaints have been received in this regard; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government and action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) This Ministry complies such a information on quarterly basis. Based on the information available with Central Government, a statement has been prepared and is annexed. [See Appendix 174 Annexure No. 2]

(b) At present, 31 State Commissions and 457 District Fora are functioning in the StatesLJTs. In addition, one State Commission and two Divisional Fora are functioning in the State of Jammu & Kashmir. All the State Governments and UT Administrations have been advised to monitor regularly pending cases in consumer courts.

(c) to (d) Some of the State Government had requested to give financial assistance to strengthen the infrastructure of there consumer courts. The Government has agreed to release financial assistance of Rs. 61 crore in four instalments to the State Governments to strengthen the infrastructure of these courts.

M.Ps' Local Area Development Scheme in Bihar

35. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been difference of opinion amongst the M.Ps.' and the District Collectors in Bihar about the schemes in the MPs' Local Area Development Scheme;

(b) if so, what are the details of such districts and the nature of schemes; and

(c) what is being done to find out solution to these problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG): (a) Only one case of difference of opinion between the Member of Parliament Smt. Rita Verma, MP, Dhanbad and the District Development Commissioner came to the notice of the Department of Programme Implementation from Bihar.

(b) and (c) The matter is under consideration of the Privileges Committee of Parliament.

UNICEF'S Report about Child Labour in India

36. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the Progress of the Nations Report, 1995 prepared by the UNICEF, in India between 5% to 30% of the children under the age. of 16 are engaged in child labour; and

(b) the steps proposed to be taken to rehabilitate them?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) UNICEF in their progress of the Nations Report, 1995 have observed that between 5% and 30% of children under the age of 16 are estimated to fall under the definition of child labour.

According to 1981 Census, 4.26% of children in the country are working children.

(b) National Child Labour Policy, 1987 has three action plans to rehabilitate child labour i.e. (i) a legislative action plan; (ii) focussing of general development programmes for benefiting children wherever possible; and (iii) project-based